

THE RESOURCES OF THE UNITED STATES.

Letter of the Secretary of State, communicating, in answer to a Resolution of the Senate of the 14th inst., a Copy of the Report on the Resources of the United States, presented to the International Statistical Congress at Berlin, in September last, by the Hon. Samuel B. Ruggles.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON, []

I transmit to the Senate, in answer to their resolution of the 14th instant, a copy of the Report on the Resources of the United States presented to the International Statistical Congress at Berlin, in September last, by the Hon. Samuel B. Ruggles, Minister of State, to the Government of the United States.

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

THE SECRETARY OF THE UNITED STATES.

Mr. Ruggles to Mr. Seward.

BERLIN, Sept. 14, 1863.

Sir: In pursuance of your instructions accompanying the appointment of the undersigned as representative of the United States of America at the International Statistical Congress at Berlin, in September instant, he embarked for Europe in the first German steamer after receiving his commission, and reached Berlin, after some detention on the Atlantic, on the afternoon of the 5th of September. No business of importance had been transacted in the Congress up to that time, except the presentation of the credentials of the delegates.

On the 7th of September, the credentials of the undersigned were presented and approved, at which time representations from the following countries, stated in alphabetical order, had been duly admitted, viz.:

The United States of America, Austria-Dessau, Austria, Baden, Bavaria, Belgium, the Danish Provinces, Denmark, France, Frankfort, Great Britain, Hamburg, Hanover, Holland, Holstein, Hesse-Cassel, Hesse-Darmstadt, Italy, Lubeck, Mecklenburg-Schwerin, Norway, Oldenburg, Portugal, Prussia, Russia, Saxo-Coburg, Saxo-Wenat, Saxony, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, and Wurtemberg.

The representatives of most of the nations above specified made reports to the Congress on the statistics of their respective countries, which will be duly published in German and in French, in the official proceedings or *Compte Rendu* of the Congress. In general, the proceedings and debates were in the German language, but to some extent in French and English.

Through some accidental and unintentional omission of the States of South America, or of Central America, send delegates to the Congress, although Brazil, especially, had been represented in preceding sessions of the Congress. The name of the undersigned was erroneously entered in the printed and published lists as delegate from North America, but on his application the error will be corrected in the official report of the proceedings.

On Friday, the 11th of September, being the sixth day of the session, a statistical report was presented to the Congress by the undersigned, in behalf of the United States of America, of which a copy is herewith transmitted.

It is proper to state that the composition and character of the Congress, as shown by its proceedings and published reports at the preceding sessions, was merely "statistical," and in no respect economical or political, rendering it proper and necessary to refrain in the report from any speculations or deductions as to the practical use or employment of the resources to be statistically exhibited, or any political discussion of the character, conduct, or possible result of the pending insurance against the Government of the American Union, but rather to present the cardinal elements of its material strength and resources past and present, in such arithmetical and statistical form as should furnish, if needful, to the Congress and to the countries therein represented, sufficient elements for any necessary conclusions.

Again, it was desirable and necessary, for the purpose of securing the publication and circulation to any considerable extent of such a statement, to confide the facts as far as practicable, to select only the most prominent, and to seek, by a well-defined outline, to present the subject clearly and distinctly.

These considerations, in view, the report was therefore confined mainly to the following cardinal points of our national strength, embraced under the heading of "Territory, Population, Agricultural Production, and Mineral Metals." It is not denied that other branches, though comparatively less important, might have been added; but under the circumstances, those presented were thought sufficient for the purpose.

In view of the insurrection still affecting the industry and products of a certain portion of the Union, and rendering it difficult to state or estimate their present value with any statistical accuracy, they were not embraced in the report to the present Congress, and the undersigned, in his report to the Congress, for the next session, will then enable the representative of the United States to fully supply the deficiency.

The present session has been signalized by the adoption of important resolutions in respect to a uniform system of weights, measures, and coins for the use of the civilized world, and materially affecting the United States of America. A large commission, embracing representatives of high attainments from fourteen different nations and countries, was appointed by Providence in the care of the American Union. The exhibition of a system for a uniform standard of weights and measures, such as will be adopted, will be of great service to the world, and thereby enable the International Statistical Congress in due time to discharge what may become a very important and world-wide duty. In classifying the results from the reports of individual countries, and thus to present in scientific form the prominent and distinctive features of the comparative analysis of nations.

The proposition presented by that commission to the Government of the United States, to confer with that body, in respect to weights, measures and coins, is now in the hands of the Secretary of State, to confer and unite with that commission in its proposed and forthcoming report. A draft of that report had been printed, presenting, in review, the different nations which had adopted, or were disposed to adopt, the metric system of weights and measures, but in which it was stated that the Confederate States of America had not agreed.

The undersigned, on perceiving the statement, protested, at once against its propriety, the admission into the report, on the ground that "the Confederate States," so-called, had no separate, national, lawfull existence, but still formed integral portions of the United States of America. The objection was adequately sustained, and the words in question were modified to read, "Some of the States of America have expressed a desire," &c. That statement is known to have been true in respect to some of the States of South America, and possibly to some of the States of our American Union.

The proposition presented by that commission to the Government of the United States, to confer with that body, in respect to weights, measures and coins, is now in the hands of the British sovereign and of the American dollar, to reduce them to even multiples of the franc, with the modifications which these propositions underwent in the Congress, are of so much importance and gravity that the undersigned will require some little time in reviewing them fully, with the necessary accompanying documents, to the Government of the United States. He will seek to do with all practicable dispatch after his return to the United States.

The subject necessarily embraces the grave and difficult question as to the relative value of gold and silver, present and prospective, and the proper adjustment of the coins of both metals, to keep pace with the fluctuations in their production and supply. For this purpose, the undersigned thought it necessary to propose, at the conference report on the metalliferous regions of the United States, the subject of the production of gold and silver should be investigated by a committee to be constituted by the International Statistical Congress, but on full consideration, it was decided, and perhaps properly, that the investigation should be conducted under the authority and direction of those respective Governments. Meanwhile, the decided opinion has been expressed by the delegations in the present Congress from Great Britain and from Russia, that the necessary inquiries on a subject so important to the world will be prosecuted by those Governments with all proper diligence and dispatch.

During the session of the present Congress a resolution was passed motion of Professor Schubert, of the University of Konigsberg, that it was "advisable, and very useful to the general interests of statistical science, that all official works and communications published by statistical bureaus, one copy shall be given to all the universities and high academies of the States of Europe, to be preserved in their libraries." A motion made by the undersigned, at a subsequent day, and seconded by Professor Schubert, was unanimously passed by the Congress, that the resolution be modified, and enlarged "so as to include the public libraries of the principal cities of the United States of America, to be designated by the State Department at Washington."

The Congress adjourned on the 11th of September, after having received the marked hospitality and consideration of the Government of Prussia, and of the inhabitants of Berlin.

Of the period of thirty days after the adjournment allowed to the undersigned for the return to the United States, he will employ the first two weeks in visiting Berlin to collect the statistics of the product of gold and silver, for which purpose he has engaged in the existing literature, and particularly checked this current of information, but during the present year it is again increasing.

The increase of population since the establishment of the Government has been as follows:

His Excellency William H. Seward, Secretary of State &c.

INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL CONGRESS AT BERLIN.

REPORT FROM THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Mr. Samuel B. Ruggles, delegate from the United States of America, presented the following report:

Mr. President and gentlemen of the International Statistical Congress.

The Government of Prussia having specially requested through its Minister at Washington, his excellency the Baron Grolle, that the Government of the United States of America should send a representative to the International Statistical Congress to convene at Berlin on the 14th September, 1863, the President of the United States, on the 4th of August, appointed the undersigned to that office.

The undersigned, who, notwithstanding the urgent obligation to embark for Europe without delay, had been prevented from collecting, in due season, large portions as could have been desired of the numerous documents and publications illustrating the statistics of the United States. Much important information, though often wanting in classification and arrangement, is embodied in various official papers issued under public authority, both national and State, and also by boards of trade and other voluntary societies whose labors are more or less statistical. Attempts had been made to collect the same, but for want of time, and of a suitable organization for the purpose, had not been successful.

The number of the whole, number of 3,062,414 arriving from foreign countries in the forty years from 1820 to 1860, were as follows:

From Ireland.	From Total, including Germany, all other countries.
1820.....	27,754
1821.....	32,117
1822, up to Aug. 20, 77 mos. 64,495	27,750
1823.....	18,724
1824.....	26,982
1825.....	26,975
1826.....	26,976
1827.....	26,975
1828.....	26,975
1829.....	26,975
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